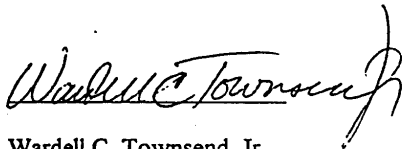


3.

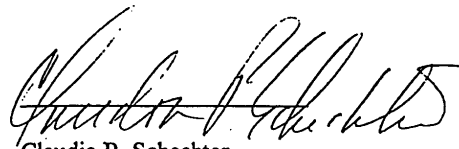
VII. Training and Qualifications

Team Leaders, Investigators, and Specialists will meet minimum training and qualification standards as jointly established by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, and the National Wildfire Coordinating Group.



Wardell C. Townsend, Jr.
Assistant Secretary
for Administration
Designated Agency
Safety and Health Official
U.S. Department of Agriculture

10/26/95
Date



Claudia P. Schechter
Director of Operations
Designated Agency
Safety and Health Official
U.S. Department of the Interior

10/26/95
Date

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

I. Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding establishes the basis for interagency investigation of serious fire-related accidents.

II. Introduction

If the causal factors of a serious fire-related accident are identified, effective corrective actions to prevent a recurrence can be taken. Interagency investigations add perspective and enhance the mix of skills and knowledges on the investigation team. Interagency investigations are especially important where there are common management and corrective action issues.

III. Policy

Interagency investigations will be conducted whenever a serious fire-related accident occurs on a USDA Forest Service managed fire, a Department of the Interior managed fire, or a jointly managed fire. Aircraft accidents occurring during wildland fire operations will be investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board, the USDA Forest Service, and the Department of the Interior in accordance with established law and agreements.

IV. Definitions

- a. Serious Fire-Related Accidents - accidents occurring to personnel participating in wildland fire suppression or prescribed burning operations, or to personnel working in direct support of those activities, which result in one or more fatalities or the hospitalization of three or more personnel.



United States Department of the Interior

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December 1, 1995



SAFETY PROGRAM DIRECTIVE NO. 2

To: Bureau Safety Managers
From: *James I. Meredith*
James I. Meredith, Acting Director, Office of Occupational Safety and Health
Subject: Investigation of Serious Wildland Fire-Related Accidents

Recently, Claudia Schechter, the Department of the Interior Designated Agency Safety and Health Official (DASHO) and Wardell Townsend, the Department of Agriculture DASHO, signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the basis for interagency investigation of serious fire-related accidents. A copy of the MOU is attached.

This MOU represents an agreement between DOI and USDA to jointly investigate serious wildland fire-related accidents. It includes basic procedures for the establishment of investigation teams, leadership of the teams, and the time frame for submission of the investigation report.

Pending revision of 485 DM 7, Accident/Incident Investigation/Reporting, the following changes are made to that chapter:

- Add to 485 DM, 7.3.F

(6) Serious wildland fire-related accidents will be investigated through the use of interagency investigation teams. The teams will include personnel from both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. Representatives of the Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), will be invited to participate in these investigations. In the event OSHA chooses to conduct an independent investigation of the accident, they will be given full support to conduct their own investigation. Leadership and conduct of the investigation will be in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding between DOI and USDA on this issue.

- Add to 485 DM, 7, Appendix 1

E. For serious fire-related accidents, the BOI will include personnel from the Department of Agriculture. Representatives of the Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), will be invited to participate in these investigations.